

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 09009 292240Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 IO-13 /065 W  
-----292245Z 025502 /66

R 292222Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2683  
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 9009

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EC  
SUBJECT: RESIGNATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER PESANTES

REF: QUITO 8650

1. THE GOE HAS ANNOUNCED ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESIGNATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER ARMANDO PESANTES, WHO HAS SERVED IN THAT POSITION SINCE JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. ALTHOUGH NO REPLACEMENT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, CONSISTENT SPECULATION FROM KNOWLEDGEABLE QUARTERS INDICATES THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE SALVADOR LARA WILL BE NAMED TO REPLACE PESANTES.

2. THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PESANTES' RESIGNATION CITES ROUTINE CAUSES, I.E., MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE. WHEN PESANTES ASSUMED THE POSITION EARLIER THIS YEAR IT WAS KNOWN THAT HE WOULD HAVE A LIMITED TENURE BECAUSE OF AGE. HOWEVER, RECENT DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE MINISTRY ON THE PART OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF CERTAIN VOTES IN THE U.N. (I.E., GUAM AND CHILE HUMAN RIGHTS) RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT PESANTES DEPARTED FOR SUBSTANTIVE REASONS. IN AN EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, FOR INSTANCE, ADMIRAL POVEDA SAID THAT WHOEVER WAS RE-  
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PAGE 02 QUITO 09009 292240Z

PONSIBLE FOR THE ECUADOR VOTES AGAINST THE US ON THE GUAM QUESTION WOULD BE DISMISSED (SEE REFTTEL). WHATEVER THE REASON FOR PESANTES' DEPARTURE, THERE HAS BEEN TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CONNECTION OF HIS RETIREMENT TO THE GUAM VOTE. THE ONLY STRONG PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE MINISTRY LATELY HAS BEEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE

GOE POSITION ON THE U.N. CHILE HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION.

3. WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH FULL BIO INFORMATION ON THE  
NEW MINISTER WHEN HE IS FORMALLY NAMED.  
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976QUITO09009  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760475-0661  
**From:** QUITO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 66  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 QUITO 8650  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 JUL 2004  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RESIGNATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER PESANTES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, EC, (PESANTES, ARMANDO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006